

**REMARKS**

The present Office Action addresses and rejects claims 1, 3, 5, and 7, and 9.

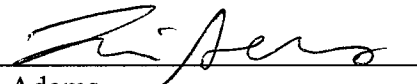
Applicants amend independent claim 1 to recite that the interior tunnel is obliquely oriented relative to the central longitudinal axis of the elongated member. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification and in the drawings, for example in Fig. 1. No new matter is added

Applicants thank Examiner Shaffer for extending the courtesy of a personal interview to Applicant's undersigned representative on May 14, 2009. During the interview, agreement was reached that the claims, as amended herein, distinguish over the pending rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,269,809 of Hayhurst et al.

In light of the above, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Lisa Adams

Registration No.: 44,238  
NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP  
World Trade Center West  
155 Seaport Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604  
Phone 617.439.2550  
Fax 617.310.9550  
Attorney for Applicant